THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 25th November 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half-past ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Running of Transport and Electricity services by local bodies.

* 124 [a] *Q*.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have received any request from any local body for permission to undertake such services as bus transport or distribution of electricity and the action taken by the Government on such requests?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Some local bodies applied for permission to undertake bus services, but the permission was refused, as it was considered doubtful whether local bodies could successfully compete with private bus operators, unless they were enabled to run bus services on monopolistic basis. Application for permission to undertake distribution of electricity has been received by the Government from Erode and Palghat Municipal Councils. But in view of the policy of Government to nationalize the entire generation and distribution of electrical energy in the State, the request of the councils could not be complied with."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Will the Government as a first step towards nationalization encourage local bodies to undertake public utility services such as electricity and bus transport? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Electricity is being nationalized; but regarding monopoly of running buses in municipal towns, I beg to state that the matter is under consideration and the question is being examined by the Government."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" మునిసిపాలిటీలు తమ బాధ్యత మీద బస్సు సర్వీసు నడిపిస్తామని మంత్రిగారికి అర్జీలు పెట్టుకొన్నప్పటికినీ, బాధ్యత అంతా మునిసిపాలిటీలవారే భరించేందుకు సిద్ధంగా ఉన్నాకూడా ప్రభుత్వము అందుకు ఎందుకు అడ్డంపడిందో, తెలియజేస్తారా ? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" For giving any monopoly in a particular area, an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act of 1939 is necessary. We are examining the matter, Sir."

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[a] Postponed from the list of questions for 24th November 1952.

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Motor Vehicles Act ను amend చేయడానికి ఎక్కువ time పట్టదు. ఇంత చిన్న amendment ను త్వరగా తీసుకు రావచ్చునని మంత్రిగారికి తెలుసును. అలాంటప్పుడు ఇంత time వరకు ప్రభుత్వము ఈ విషయాన్ని ఎందుకు suspense లో పెడుతూందో తెలియ జేస్తారా ?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" We thought of considering the proposal after the election to the municipal councils were over. Now that the elections are over, the Government are considering the matter."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Will the Government consider favourably the proposal of the Corporation of Madras to run the tramway services in Madras City after the expiry of the present contract? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may give notice of a separate question."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Will the Government grant monopoly to local bodies to undertake electricity supply and bus transport in their localities, now that the Constitution has itself been amended to facilitate such a procedure? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Regarding granting of monopoly to run bus services in municipalities, I have already answered. At present Government are nationalizing electricity gradually all over the State. As such we cannot comply with the request of the local bodies for monopoly to undertake distribution of electric power."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I pass on to question No. 126."

SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH :—" I want to know what has happened to my question No. 125? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member did not give me notice of his intention to have his question answered to-day."

Local Fund Dispensary, Hosdrug.

* 126 [a] Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to take over the Hosdrug Local Fund Dispensary in South Kanara district under Government control and convert it into a hospital; and

(*b*) if so, when the same will be done?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the negative."

SRI M. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" In view of the fact that Hosdrug taluk is a sufficiently big one with a large population, will the Government consider the desirability of converting the Local Fund Dispensary into a hospital? "

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[a] Postponed from the list of questions for 24th November 1952.